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1895-12-20

## Letter from Joseph Leggett to John Muir, 1895 Dec 20.

Joseph Leggett

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JOSEPH LEGGETT,  
ATTORNEY AT LAW,  
ROOM 8, 8TH FLOOR, MILLS BUILDING.

San Francisco, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1895.

John Muir Esq.  
Martinez, Cal.,

Dear Sir,

Your letter of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1895, though so kind and courteous, gave me and the other members of our Lecture Committee a pang of disappointment. Mr. E. A. Senicke since then had the pleasure of hearing you speak before the Sierra Club, and at the next meeting of our Committee he exclaimed: "Oh if we could only get Mr. Muir to give that talk to the members of our Institute!" I have felt all along as though I could not give you up. Many years ago I read your delightful articles as they came out in the Magazines, and a few weeks ago I took out your "Mountains of California" and read it over again. And I can say to the credit of our members that the book has been largely read by them. But if you would only come before them in person and talk to them as you write, I know you would largely increase the number of the readers of your books and contributions to the periodicals. And, after all, is not that what you write for, to give instruction and pleasure to as large a number of persons as possible? Will you not please come down and help us start a Muir revival in San Francisco?

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Your writing is so strong and beautiful and healthful. It is like the bracing balm laden breezes of your beloved mountains. Come and inspire us all with your love of nature. I assure you we will appreciate the privilege of hearing you. Our course of lectures this season has been very successful, and attendance and the appreciation of the members have been gratifying beyond precedent.

It will not be necessary for you to prepare any set lecture for our people. Just give us a quiet, sociable talk about those glorious things you have seen and heard in those wonderful journeys you have made. Such a talk will elevate and refresh our minds, and give us a yearning for higher and better things. If you knew how much good you will do us all, I know you would come.

Will you not allow me to announce that you will talk to us on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, 1896, or on some other Saturday evening between that date and the 1<sup>st</sup> of March?

Yours truly  
Joseph Leggett